



Press Release

Senator Brandon Creighton

Senate District 4 www.senate.state.tx.us (512) 463-0104

October 30, 2014
For Immediate Release

Contact: Zachary Stephenson
Zachary.Stephenson@senate.state.tx.us

Senator Creighton Meets with Port of Beaumont Leadership

AUSTIN, TEXAS (October 30, 2014) . . . Senator Brandon Creighton (R – Conroe) met recently with leadership from the Port of Beaumont to discuss current port projects, legislation affecting the port, as well as funding issues. Those in attendance with Senator Creighton included: Deputy Port Director Bill Carpenter, Director of Corporate Affairs and Public Information Officer John Roby, Commissioner Pete Shelton, Commissioner Bill Darling, Commissioner Pat Anderson, and Commissioner Lee Smith.

"Texas is poised to see a jump in trade activity with the coming completion of the project to widen the Panama Canal. The Port of Beaumont is a major player on the Texas coast and will serve as a primary port of entry for much of the increased ship traffic. We must ensure that the port and the surrounding area are prepared and ready to take advantage of the coming opportunity," said Creighton.

The Port of Beaumont was officially created in 1949 as a political body by the 51st Texas Legislature. Since its inception as a governmental entity the Port has expanded and increased its activity. Its current depth of 40 feet was reached in 1960, and the Port of Beaumont Navigation district now covers an area of roughly 150 miles.

Creighton went on to say, "Leadership at the Port of Beaumont has been very impressive and I look forward to their continued growth and success. Between the fiscal years ending August 31, 2012 and August 31, 2013 Port tonnage activity increased roughly 32% from 2,338,712 tons to 3,080,231 tons. That's a lot of increase in activity in a short period of time and a big boost to the Texas economy."

Senator Creighton and leadership from the Port of Beaumont also discussed legislation from the previous legislative session related to the Port Mobility Fund and funding from the Texas Department of Transportation. The Texas Department of Transportation recently told the legislature that an additional \$5 billion would be needed annually. However, most of this additional funding, if approved, will be limited to roads.

"Transportation is at the center of our state economy," Creighton said. "But we need to remember while we are working on road funding for our overland trade and regular traffic that we also have a sizable port infrastructure to maintain as well if we hope to increase our level of trade activity. If Texas does not take care of its port facilities we risk losing out on those opportunities to other gulf states that invest to keep their ports at top notch levels. We will work this next session to remind my fellow legislators of the importance of our port system in addition to our quest for more adequate road funding."

Senator Brandon Creighton represents Senate District 4, which includes all of Chambers County as well as portions of Montgomery, Harris, Galveston, and Jefferson Counties. He is currently serving his first partial term as State Senator.

###